

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2002

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman -- Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary
Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, H-309
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf:

As your subcommittee develops the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2003, we respectfully request the inclusion of \$1.5 million for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs' Jail Booking and Reporting System (JBRS). This money will be used to complete the final phase of this \$3 million project.

Over the last three years, Congress has entered into a partnership with the State of Washington to develop this web-based system. The Washington State Legislature has committed operations funding, while Congress has appropriated funds for the initial computer infrastructure.

When completed, JBRS will allow any law enforcement officer, judge, corrections officer or prosecutor to know a suspect's complete arrest and incarceration history throughout the state on a "real-time" basis. JBRS will create a powerful investigative tool. Such a system would be unique to the country, and will surely be used as a model for other state agencies.

The entity tasked with implementing the JBRS is the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). WASPC is using the original congressional appropriations to develop Phase I of the JBRS. This includes the creation of the central site, and the connection to approximately half of the State's 59 local jails in the State's eight largest counties. Phase I is scheduled to be operational by December of 2002. This final phase of the JBRS program will link the remaining local jails to the system.

The JBRS program is very important to us and is truly a unique project that will significantly enhance law enforcement's ability to solve and prevent crime. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

ADAM SMITH